

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098294

FOLLOWING REPEATS TEHRAN 4050 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI
ALGIERS CARACAS DOHA JAKARTA JIDDA KUWAIT LAGOS QUITO TRIPOLI
21 APR

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR, IQ

SUBJ: REPORTS OF OPEC MEETING IN BAGHDAD

REF: BAGHDAD 523

1. WE WONDER WHETHER RUMORS OF MEETING IN BAGHDAD REFER TO
OAPEC RPT OAPEC MEETING, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL BE HALD IN
BAGHDAD IN NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.

2. EMBOFF CALLED NIOC OPEC AFFAIRS CHIEF YOUSSEFIANI TO ASK
WHETHER HE KNEW OF ANY PLANNED OPEC MEETING IN BAGHDAD.
YOUSSEFIANI CLAIMED TO KNOW NOTHING OF ANY OPEC MEETING OTHER
THAN MAY 27 MINISTERIAL IN SALI AND ECONOMIC COMMISSION BOARD
(ECB) AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS PREPARATORY TO MINISTERIAL.
NEVERTHELESS, THHRAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILIES APRIL 21 CARRY
UPI DISPATCH REPORTING THAT OPEC MINISTERS HAVE BEGUN TO ARRIVE
IN GENEVA FOR MEETING "ON PRICING POLICY DIFFERENCES." WE DO
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NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS IS TRUE. IF IT IS, YOUSSEFIANT MAY OR MAY

NOT HAVE KNOW OF IT. OBVIOUSLY OPEC OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY MINISTERS, NOW TRYING TO BE SECRETIVE ABOUT THEIR MOVEMENTS. USG'S NEED TO KNOW EXACT DATES AND TIMES OF SUCH MEETINGS WOULD NOT SEEM COMMENSURATE WITH EMBASSIES' NEED TO AVOID ANNOYING CONTACTS BY PRYING INTO WHAT PRESENTLY IS FELT (AT LEAST HERE) TO BE HIGHLY SENSITIVE MATTER. WE INTEND TO ABSTAIN FROM ASKING GIO/NIOC OFFICIALS ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT OPEC VENUES AND TIMES UNTIL WE FEEL THEY HAVE CALMED DOWN. PRESENT REACTION HERE TO SUCH QUESTIONS IS TO WONDER WHY USG WANTS TO KNOW: "IS CARLOS ON OUR PAYROLL?" HELSMS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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